

3624 Maroon Lane
Bowie, Md. 20715
May 13, 1999

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Dockets Management Branch
(HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane
Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Attn: Docket No. 98N-1038

Dear Sirs;

I am writing in response to your request for comments on food irradiation labeling. In regards to the 1st question - whether the wording of the current radiation disclosure statement should be revised: I demand prominent labeling on all irradiated food. The labeling should be prominent and use the terms "irradiated" or "irradiation," and include the use of the radura symbol. The use of proposed alternative terms such as "cold pasteurization" and "electronic pasteurization" are misleading, and should not be used. They may not be understood by the general public.

As for the 2nd question; whether such labeling requirements should expire at a specified date in the future, I say no, it should be continued for the benefit of the consumer. The absence of any statement would be misleading, because irradiation destroys vitamins, and causes changes in sensory and spoilage qualities that are not obvious or expected by the consumer.

The majority of the public, I believe, does not want to purchase irradiated foods. We, as consumers, have the right to know what we are purchasing, and it is unethical to withhold labelling that will enable us to make intelligent choices. Full and clear disclosure is the fairest method, and the right way to go. Then the consumer can decide what he/she feels is best.

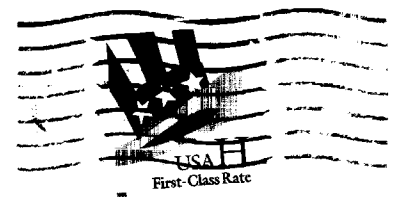
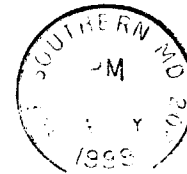
Sincerely,

Barbara Mills

98N 1038

C2162

Mrs. Barbara Mills
3624 Mason Lane
Bowie, Md. 20715



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